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## DEFINITION

Service animals are defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service dogs are working animals and not pets. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

**Note:** Under the ADA titles II and III, as revised on March 15, 2011, special provisions allow for the use of miniature horses as a service animal.

Examples of tasks performed by a service animal may include but are not limited to the following:

- Guiding individuals who are blind,
- Alerting individuals who are deaf.
- Pulling a wheelchair.
- Alerting and protecting individuals with a seizure disorder.
- Reminding individuals with mental illness to take prescribed medications.
- Calming individuals with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack.

The benefit for maintenance costs of a service animal may be authorized if **all** of the following conditions are met:

- The client is receiving home help services.
- The client is certified as disabled due to a specific condition such as arthritis, blindness, cerebral palsy, polio, multiple sclerosis, deafness, stroke or spinal cord injury.
- The service animal is trained to meet the specific needs of the client relative to their disability.

**Note:** The service animal does **not** have to be professionally trained and proof of training must **not** be requested.

- The tasks performed by the service animal are for the client.

The service plan must document that the service animal will be used primarily to meet specific client personal care needs. The adult services specialist may ask what tasks the service animal performs for the client but cannot request a demonstration of the tasks.

The maximum payment level for the maintenance of a service animal is \$20 a month.

**Note:** This is a benefit to the client and not earned income.

There is no enrollment process for service animals. Authorizations are submitted through ASCAP payment module with service code 0501 and paid to the client only.